

Amendments to the Claims

1. (previously presented) A vector for enhancing the inhibition of a selected target gene within an organism, comprising a gene silencing vector characterized in that said gene silencing vector includes an inverted repeat sequence that is complementary to a region of the vector and in reverse nucleotide order
2. (previously presented) A vector as claimed in claim 1, in which said region of the vector and its inverted repeat sequence are synthetic polynucleotides.
3. (previously presented) A vector as claimed in claim 1, in which the inverted repeat sequence is of all or part of the said gene silencing vector.
4. (previously presented) A vector as claimed in claim 3, in which the inverted repeat sequence is of the 5'-untranslated region of the gene silencing vector.
5. (previously presented) A vector as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, in which the inverted repeat is separated from said region by a sequence of nucleotides.
6. (previously presented) A method of controlling the expression of a DNA sequence in a target organism, comprising inserting into the genome of said organism an enhanced gene silencing vector as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5.
7. (previously presented) A vector for enhanced gene silencing comprising in sequence a promoter region, a 5'-untranslated region, a transcribable DNA sequence and a 3'-untranslated region containing a polyadenylation signal, characterised in that said gene silencing vector includes an inverted repeat sequence that is complementary to a region of the vector and in reverse nucleotide order.

8. (previously presented) A vector as claimed in claim 7 in which the inverted repeat sequence is a fragment of the 5'-untranslated region.
9. (previously presented) A vector as claimed in claim 7 or claim 8, in which the inverted repeat sequence is separated from the selected fragment by a sequence of nucleotides acting as a spacer.
10. (previously presented) A vector as claimed in any of claims 7 or 8 or 9, in which the construct includes a double copy of the inverted repeat sequence.
11. (currently amended) A vector as claimed in any of claims 7 to 10, in which the vector includes two tandem copies of the inverted repeat sequence.
12. (previously presented) A DNA construct for the inhibition of gene expression comprising in sequence a promoter region, a 5'-untranslated region, a transcribable DNA sequence and a 3'-untranslated region containing a polyadenylation signal, characterised in that the said 5'-untranslated region is contiguous with a pair of tandem inverted repeat sequences of said untranslated region.